

HANGS ON THE BALANCE

Glimmer of Hope in Deferred Meeting of Envoys
UP AT PORTSMOUTH
RUSSIANS ARE AWAITING FINAL WORD FROM THE CZAR.
Not Likely to Yield to Peace Importunities—Concessions Inconsistent With Dignity and Honor.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., August 22.—Another glimmer of hope. The meeting of the plenipotentiaries which was to have been held this afternoon has been postponed until tomorrow morning at 9:30. The official reason assigned for this change of program was that the secretaries had not yet completed the work of drafting the protocols for submission to the plenipotentiaries. This is true, but there is a more potent reason. M. Witte has not yet received the final word from St. Petersburg.

Present Peace Status.
As the situation now stands Mr. Witte could not, if he would, cede or compromise on either article 5 (Sakhalin) or article 9 (indemnity). The instructions given him by the emperor before he left St. Petersburg precluded the possibility of either, and it can be stated that up to the present hour every message he has received, indirectly or directly, from his emperor, shows no sign of any change of mind. And from the private advice the advisers whom the emperor is consulting seem practically unanimous in support of the view that further concessions are inconsistent with Russia's "dignity and honor," and that unless Japan is prepared to yield something substantial—not upon articles 10 or 11, but upon articles 5 and 9—it is better to let the war continue. Although it seems to be hoping against hope, there is still a possibility that the emperor will take President Roosevelt's advice and take the only step which the President thinks can save the conference from shipwreck. The President's suggestion is that the plenipotentiaries be authorized to make a concession on article 5, and that the emperor should be asked to make a concession on article 9. If it is finally rejected it is said not to involve a specific answer, but M. Witte is anxious that the emperor shall have no time to deliberate, and the Japanese have no desire to force the issue. They will welcome a few days' delay if the delay keeps the door to peace open.

Official Bulletin.
The following official bulletin was issued at 10:20 a.m.:
"Owing to the impossibility of finishing before 3 o'clock this afternoon the work of preparing the protocols of the meetings of the plenipotentiaries, the meeting has been adjourned until 9:30 o'clock Wednesday morning."

Conference With Roosevelt Representative.
At 1 o'clock today a personal representative of President Roosevelt was closeted with M. Witte and Baron Rosen in the naval general stores at the navy yard. The appointment for the conference was made through Secretary Pelee last night. It is not yet known who the emissary of the President is.

Preparation of the Protocol.
The protocol is being prepared in French by Mr. Plancon, one of the Russian secretaries, in collaboration with the Japanese secretaries, who make an English translation of the document. The protocol is to be a faithful photograph of the proceedings, showing in condensed form the arguments advanced on each side in support of the position taken by each on the different articles.

Plan for Compromise.
A plan for compromising the differences between the plenipotentiaries on article 5 (Sakhalin) has been suggested. It contemplates the restoration of the status quo existing before 1875, when Russia held the northern and Japan the southern part of the island. This, it is contended, should satisfy the national claims of Japan, and at the same time relieve Russia of the danger of an invasion of the mainland, which, it is declared by the Russians, would exist if the island were in the full possession of the Japanese.

ARCTIC SHIP AT HULL

Arrival of the Steamer Terra Novo Today
FROM BERGEN, NORWAY
HAVING FIALA AND HIS COMPANIONS ON BOARD.

Thrilling Description of the Latter's Effort to Reach the North Pole—Narrow Escapes.

HULL, England, August 22.—Anthony Fiala of Brooklyn, N. Y., leader of the Ziegler polar expedition, the members of which were rescued by the relief ship Terra Nova, under the command of William S. Champ, secretary of the late William Ziegler, arrived here today on his way to the United States. He came aboard the Terra Nova, which is expected tomorrow. Mr. Fiala said to the Associated Press:

"This has been another in the long list of failures to reach the pole, unless the three determined attempts made to reach high latitude should be considered as not having proved altogether futile, but although the great question of the pole remains unsolved we have brought back data which should prove of scientific value and have explored and surveyed the archipelago from Crown Prince Rudolf Land to Cape Flora, discovering four new channels and three large islands.

Imprisoned Four Days.
"Failing to find an opening in the ice in longitude 38 degrees 7 minutes east, latitude 79 degrees 7 minutes north, we determined to force a way through at the forty-eighth parallel. Here we were imprisoned for four days, finally getting through with the use of gun cotton.

The First Sledge Party.
The first sledge party left March 7, 1904, but was compelled to return owing to injuries received by several of the men after reaching Cape Fligely. A second attempt, made on March 25, likewise resulted in failure, the sledges being smashed when but a short distance from land. Leaving a small party at the base, I returned to Cape Flora, the trip occupying sixteen days.

Relief falling to arrive, in September, 1904, I accompanied by William J. Peters of the United States Geological Survey and a small sledge party started back to the base, which was reached November 22, 1904, after a most eventful and dangerous trip, much rough having to be crossed in dense darkness and the men and dogs falling into holes and crevices and running against walls of ice. Crossing Hooker Island, the ice being rough and the men having to travel a distance of sixty-five feet and were wedged between walls of ice. Their rescue was attended with the greatest difficulty, one being so injured that he had to be lashed to a sledge.

Most of Party in Good Health.
"With the exception of a Norwegian fireman, who had died, we found all the party at the base in good health, and preparations were again being made for another sledge trip to the northward.

Decided to Return.
"The weather delayed the party until March 16, 1905, when the party left the base, which we renamed Cape Fligely, for the ice pack to the north. Crossing a glacier east of Cape Rath, we forced a way to the northward, but our progress was slow, the ice being rough and the men having to first cut a way, and then to assist the teams over the rough road.



EARTHQUAKE OUT WEST

SHOCK IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SEVEREST IN YEARS.

CHICAGO, August 22.—Illinois was shaken by an earthquake shortly after 11 o'clock last night, the most severe in recent years. The shock in the southern part of the state, especially in the region surrounding East St. Louis, was severe enough to rattle dishes and furniture, cause dogs to bark as if in alarm, and children to awaken and cry. Houses creaked, and in many instances their occupants rushed out in terror, fearing that the straining beams and joists would give way.

Earthquake Shocks at St. Louis.
ST. LOUIS, August 22.—St. Louis was visited by an earthquake shortly after 11 o'clock last night. Three distinct shocks were felt by thousands of persons in St. Louis and St. Louis county. The trembling of the earth was accompanied by a dull rumbling noise.

Felt Also in Tennessee.
NASHVILLE, Tenn., August 22.—At Clarksville, Tenn., a severe earthquake shock felt at 11:10 o'clock last night created considerable excitement.

OFF ON HUNTING TRIP.
Kermit Roosevelt and Companions Start After Bears.

CHICAGO, August 22.—A dispatch for the Tribune from Deadwood, S. D., says: Kermit Roosevelt, Stanley Bullock and Paul Martin, in the care of Capt. Seth Bullock and the guides, Bud Tilley and Will Hardin, left here last night for a ten days' hunting trip. The three lads are about the same age.

THE DAUGHTERS OF LIBERTY.
Annual National Convention Opened at Chicago Today.

CHICAGO, August 22.—The annual national convention of the Daughters of Liberty is in session here. Votes already cast in favor of the proposed constitution of the organization have determined whether or not it will be seen that an overwhelming initial advantage is enjoyed by the peasants.

REDUCING ORCHESTRAS.
Chicago Theater Managers Take Significant Action in Retaliation.

CHICAGO, August 22.—An alleged agreement on the part of downtown theater managers to cut down the size of orchestras was uncovered last night by the musicians' union. The charge was made that every downtown theater had laid off from three to five orchestra players.

VERY MUCH EARNEST

President Not Losing Time in Peace Effort.

KEEPING WIRES BUSY BETWEEN SAGAMORE HILL AND PORTSMOUTH.

Latest Developments of the Situation Today—In Close Touch With the Envoys.

OYSTER BAY, L. I., August 22.—While President Roosevelt has not relaxed in the least his efforts to bring the Russian and Japanese envoys into an agreement, the distinct lull in the negotiations was noticeable here today.

Hopes for an Agreement.
He is very much in earnest in the efforts he is making now to clear the way to an agreement and it is believed his strong feeling in the matter has impressed itself upon the minds of the conferees.

THE RUSSIAN ASSEMBLY.
Peasant Element Will Have Majority Over Landowners.

Special Telegram to the Star.
ST. PETERSBURG, August 22.—Under the provisions for the constitution of the national consultative assembly the peasant element has an absolute majority over the landowners and urban electors in the eastern provinces. Including 51 insured by a special provision of the project, the peasants are certain of 153 representatives in the assembly. In the provinces of Vladimir and Moscow the urban electors have an absolute majority; in Minsk and Poltava, the landowners; in the other provinces there is no absolute majority.

VIOLATION WITH AN AX.
Young Woman's Head Chopped by a Negro.

Special Dispatch to the Star.
MT. VERNON, N. Y., August 22.—Mrs. Ella Goff, a young negro woman, is dying in the Mt. Vernon Hospital with a part of the top of her head chopped off by a negro, who attacked her with an ax at 8:45 o'clock this morning in her home here. Police Surgeon Van Patten, who attended her, says it is miraculous that she did not die instantly, as her skull is fractured.

Plans for Big Improvements.
Special Dispatch to the Star.
FORT GAINES, Ga., August 22.—J. J. Sellman, civil engineer of New York city, representing the Interstate Water Works and Construction Company of Washington, D. C., is here making surveys, plans and specifications for the construction of a complete system of water works and electric lighting plant. Franchise was issued a few weeks ago and the work of construction will commence at once.

DISASTER FROM STORM

LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY IN MINNESOTA COUNTIES.

ST. PAUL, Minn., August 22.—Devastation, terrible and complete, was wrought on all sides of the Twin Cities by the storm of Sunday night, according to reports just received here. Through all the region from Anoka to Fillmore counties reports tell of disaster and loss of life and property. Members of families are missing, and it is believed they are buried under the debris which was strewn broadcast by the wind.

Railway Tracks Swept Away.
Large sections of railroad tracks were swept away south of here and the mail trains on certain portions of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road were run yesterday on improvised tracks, making slow time on account of the enforced curfew of the roadbed. Washouts were numerous, both along the railroads and in the highways, the rainfall being enormous.

THE TAGGART DIVORCE TRIAL.
Niece of the Defendant on the Stand Today.

WOOSTER, Ohio, August 22.—Mrs. Irene Shields Vose, niece of Mrs. Taggart, was on the stand during the greater part of the morning at today's hearing of the Taggart divorce case. Her testimony did not, however, develop any new point, but Gen. Miner, who was Capt. Taggart's superior officer at Fort Leavenworth, attended the hearing today.

ORDER OF FORESTERS.
Ninth Annual Convention Opened at Buffalo Today.

BUFFALO, N. Y., August 22.—The ninth annual convention of the American Order of Foresters began here today. About 300 delegates were present, representing eighteen states.

NORWAY-SWEDEN DISSOLUTION.
Storthing Today Adopted the Government's Proposals.

CHRISTIANA, Norway, August 22.—The storthing today adopted by a vote of 104 to 11 the proposal of the government for the formal opening of negotiations with Sweden for the dissolution of the union.

ATHOS IS NOW IN PORT

Missing Fruit Steamer Towed into New York Harbor.
WAS 17 DAYS OVERDUE

BROUGHT 8 PASSENGERS AND CARGO OF ROTTEN BANANAS.
Bones of Half-Eaten Sharks on Board

Indicate the Perils of Belated Voyage.

NEW YORK, August 22.—The steamer Athos, seventeen days late, with eight passengers and a cargo of rotten bananas and with the bones of half-eaten sharks on board to indicate the perils of her voyage, arrived off Scotland lightship last night. On July 30 the Donald Steamship Company's steamer Athos left Port Antonio, Jamaica, for New York, a six days' voyage, with provisions in plenty for this short period. The hour out of port on the electric rod on the engine broke, and from that hour until last Sunday, proceeding sometimes only an hour a day under her own steam, the Athos drifted at the mercy of storms, in constant danger of famine, once without drinking water and receiving supplies from time to time off passing vessels, until on August 20 the disabled steamer gave up and signaled the steamer Albat for a tow. This steamer brought the Athos to New York.

Trouble With the Engine.
The trouble was in the engine all the time. From July 30 to August 7, one to two breaks daily in the engine were recorded. The log chronicles the fact that the daily delay was only thirty minutes long on August 5. Two days later the catching of the sharks is recorded. Chinnamen on board attempted to eat the sharks, but the meat made them ill and the fish were thrown into the sea. During the next two days boats were lowered from the Athos in search of food fish. On August 8 the disabled steamer sighted the steamer Albat and signaled for help. "Well on board," but on the 10th the last tank of water was opened and was found to be tainted with the juice of rotting bananas.

Incipient Famine Relieved.
Some dolphins were caught two days later, and on August 12 the incipient famine was further relieved by the steamer Montevideo, which supplied provisions. For nearly a week between August 10 and 17 the engine shaft was useless; but not only was the steamer forced to drift about while repairs were under way, but for two days of this period a great storm and high seas broke over the hapless steamship. The log meanwhile indicates that more dolphins were caught. Finally, on August 18, the coupling flange broke, and the Athos abandoned the attempt to make New York under her own steam. After twenty days of continuous accidents it was decided to accept the offer of a tow. This did not come for two days, during which a second storm broke over the steamer Vera, which came alongside the Athos, supplying eatables and drinkables.

Odor of Decaying Fruit.
Worse even than the danger of the sea, of famine and of thirst, the passengers say, was the odor of the decaying banana cargo. At Scotland lightship last night the towline broke, as a last chapter in her long series of accidents, and the Athos could not repair the broken line in the dark, but was towed by the night tug, which brought her passengers to quarantine. Today tugs were sent out to bring the Athos into port.

Famine Causes Small Mutinies.
Passengers of the Athos, on landing today, reported that the famine caused small mutinies among the ship's crew of eighteen Chinamen. Trouble first started among the coolies over the death of tobacco and rice. A negro helper was stabbed during one of the fights of the hungry crew, but the officers and passengers were not seriously menaced.

MANUFACTURERS ORGANIZE.
Notable Incorporation to Regulate Relations With Labor.

ALBANY, N. Y., August 22.—Twenty-one prominent manufacturers from different parts of the country are named as directors of the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States of America, which was incorporated here today for the principal purpose of regulating relations between employers and employees and dealing with labor unions.

CANNON "STANDING PAT."
The Speaker Was for a Brief Time in This City.

Representative Cannon, prospective Speaker of the House, was in town today, stopping over on his way from Lake Champlain to his home at Danville, Ill. Mr. Cannon looked ruddy and in fine fettle, and apparently is ready for the fray in Congress next session.

THE FEVER SITUATION

Vigilance Continued in the Fight at New Orleans.
DOCTORS ENCOURAGED

STRONG EFFORTS MADE TO CONFINE THE DISEASE.
Effect of Epidemic on the Railway Traffic—New Cases and Deaths to Date.

NEW ORLEANS, La., August 22.—While the leaders in the fight against yellow fever feel that the struggle is succeeding beyond their expectations, there is no disposition to lull the public into a false sense of security, lest there shall be a relaxation of the efforts which it is essential that every household make if the present control of the disease is to be maintained. With the fever, however, running into the fifties and rapidly approaching the eighties at this time in 1878 and the new cases of genuine yellow fever approximating 200 against less than a dozen deaths daily now, there is considered to be every justification for the encouragement which Dr. White announces he feels over the situation.

Especially encouraging is the situation above Canal street. The disease has struggled desperately to gain a foothold in that section, but has failed. There have been a considerable number of cases, but they are widely scattered, and there is no nucleus of them to be found anywhere from Canal to the upper limits of the parish. The Train Service.
Some days ago President Southeron wrote to the railroads asking them to put on small trains to some of the towns which are in sore distress because communication is cut off. General Superintendent Cushing of the Southern Pacific has written a reply that he is arranging a series of trains to afford service for non-infected localities. Traffic, however, is so light that these trains are earning less than one-fourth their cost.

The Church Work.
Bishop Reassums of the Episcopal Church, who is taking an active part in the educational campaign, is arranging a series of mass meetings in the leading Episcopal churches with a view to aiding the authorities in the work. The bishop has had additional work thrust upon him by the misfortune of Dean Wells of Christ Church Cathedral, who has been stricken with the fever ten days ago and has been very seriously ill, and the dean has been in constant attendance at his bedside.

Amelioration in Showers.
Showers today promised some amelioration of the high temperatures which have been prevailing, but otherwise there was little change in the fever situation. Six deaths during the night promised that today's total would run about equal with that of the preceding twenty-four hours. There was little variation in the number of new cases in the early morning report. The medical authorities said today that evidence of the fact that the situation is constantly improving, in so far as the system of controlling is concerned, was to be found in the fact that cases now being reported six and eight hours after they are taken down. It is an indication of the efficiency of the measures now being taken, co-operating with the federal authorities. Reports of cases promptly on their occurrence permits immediate screening and thus lessens the chances of infection of persons who have not been attacked.

Steamer Held in Quarantine.
NORFOLK, Va., August 22.—The American steamer Lassell from Port Eads for Norfolk with a cargo of salt is held at quarantine off Old Point. It is not believed there is any sickness aboard, but as the vessel came from Port Eads at the mouth of the Mississippi, below New Orleans, it was deemed best to detain it for observation.

More Stringent Quarantine.
CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., August 22.—The city and county boards of health at a joint session this morning adopted still more stringent quarantine regulations. Inspectors on trains entering the city will require from all persons desiring to stop at Chattanooga health certificates from proper and recognized authorities.

AN ATTEMPTED ASSAULT.
Manassas Aroused Over Dastard Act of Unknown Man.

Special Dispatch to the Star.
MANASSAS, Va., August 22.—There was an attempted criminal assault upon Miss Hallie Smith, living on the Sudley road about three miles from Manassas, on Sunday night last about dusk. Miss Smith and her sister, Miss Ella, live alone. While the latter was out milking and Miss Hallie was alone on the porch, a man came up from behind and grabbed her by the throat and dragged her several yards. Her screams alarmed the assailant, who fled just as Miss Ella reached the house. Miss Hallie did not know her assailant, who was a negro, and with whom she struggled valiantly, tearing off a part of his necktie, which may lead to his identification. Suspicion points to a negro named Tom Page, who does not bear a good reputation.

THE ELIZABETH RIVER DISASTER.
Three More Bodies of Victims Recovered Yesterday.

NORFOLK, Va., August 22.—The bodies of three more victims of the Atlantic Coast Line railway excursion wreck of last week have been found floating in the western branch of the Elizabeth river. They are all those of colored men and are yet unidentified.